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CULTURE REVIEW

Sin

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'Our Greatest Sin Has Been To Grant The Native The Power of Writing'

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'It is proposed by some that they should go to Lake Tyers Mission Station for the purpose of concentration, which they positively object to, seeing they regard Framlingham as their home to which they are much attached we do not want them [Aborigines] near big centers I have seen Lake Tyers and think it an ideal place for Aborigines even if a big population did go in that district Lake Tyers would still be isolated in relation to the quarter-castes and octoroons I think that the more these people can be separated and mixed with the white members of the community as individuals, the better it will ultimately be for themselves and their children, rather than that they should congregate and breed their own poor type the Local Guardian has evidently been neglectful in allowing settlement to proceed to the present extent, but I think it should be definitely banned and the men told that if they do not leave the reserve and return whence they came they will be charged with trespass if not we should soon have, not only quadroons and octoroons, but other people on our hands, who were one-sixteenth aborigines, and so on. Where would it be likely to stop?'

Dear Sir my niece a girl of 14 years when she was taken she wanted to come home to her mother they refused to let her come home not even to see her mother & I heard that she has been treated very harshly by the woman manager & all her letters are opened all our dear brave soldiers boy got killed at the front there's none to come back alive my brother brother-in-law & uncle & cousin & my nephew all done in there helping to make Australia free & this is how the government is treating us

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Dear sir I am thinking about my poor little girl she is longing to come home again to her own native part you know that it is quite natural for a child to come home to her own mother and relations my sister got a letter from the girl the very same day you was here and was telling her that the manager is treating her very unkindly she knocked her head up against the door and she struck her the manager is overworking her got her up in the house now working her too much she have to get up six o'clock in the morning and scrub before she goes to school and she have to work when she comes out again

Dearest darling Daughter I now write you these few lines hoping it will find you in good health you don't know how much I long for you I am always thinking about you me and aunty also your poor little brothers they are always saying to me when is sister coming home again all your brothers sends their love

Dear Sir I have three little orphan cousins at the lake mission they do not get well treated so I would like to have them up here with me where they can be well cared for the last time I went down to see them I found them in a fearful state running about bare headed and raggedy as they have nobody to care for them they have no relation there

Dear Sir my husband wishes me to write to you & ask you sir if you know anything about the Board talking about shifting us away from here shortly we would rather live here as we are in our own land I am yours please send an answer

Dear Sir just a few lines to let you know that I haven't received my military pay yet you know sir that what little rations I get from the Board is not the worth of my dear son's only life of which he has gone to give up for King & freedom see that I get my pay for you know sir that ever mother's heart is with her son God bless our boys at the front

Dear Sir we have just heard that our land is to be taken from us I thought that I would write to you and ask if it is true I would rather do without my rations, clothes etc. than have my little bit of land taken from me I have been informed by the Constable that my piece of land containing eighty acres, which was given to me by the Board over twenty years ago for my own use, and I was told by the Board that it was to be mine as long as I lived I want to know if the Constable is acting under orders from 'Headquarters', or merely playing his old game of bluff. Please advise me.

Dear Sir I am just writing to you asking permission to retain sufficient land for two horses and two cows, (for my sister and myself) you know yourself that in a few more years I will cease to be trouble to you the years I've spent in the hospital are telling their own tale. I am past my 40th. Year

Dear Sir and Governors the weather is very cold & my house is very damp we are hard up very much for blankets I need warm blankets my little kitchen is always very wet & miserable my sister cripple nearly two years now & very thin she's always suffering with kindest love & best wishes excuse my writing